



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: Oct. 27, 2005

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GOV. EASLEY NAMES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

RALEIGH—Gov. Mike Easley today named two companies and five individuals as the recipients of the Governor's Awards for Excellence in Workforce Development for 2005. The N.C. Commission on Workforce Development will recognize the recipients at an awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m. today at the N.C. 2005 Workforce Development Partnership Conference at the Sheraton Four Seasons/Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

"The companies and employees who earned these awards demonstrate a commitment to earning the knowledge, talent and skill necessary to succeed in our global economy," said Easley. "I commend them for helping to make North Carolina's workforce one of the most high-skilled and well-educated in our nation."

For the past 17 years, the awards have honored individuals and businesses for accomplishments and contributions to help North Carolina reach its workforce development goals. Individual award winners received \$500 donated from private companies and organizations.

Award recipients include:

Butler Manufacturing Company, Laurinburg – *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Employer.* Butler Manufacturing Company of Laurinburg is a leading manufacturer of pre-engineered metal buildings. Butler Manufacturing currently employs 227 staff members and serves customers across the Southeast. The company is dedicated to its employees and focuses on employee safety, contributes to local and state economies, and supports the community. The company also sponsors a mentoring program for high school students, internships for college students, accepts referrals from the JobLink Career Center, participates in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) On-the-Job Training Program and offers other training and job opportunities.

Hickory Springs Metal Complex, Hickory – *Governor's Award for Excellence in Workforce Development, Outstanding Employer.* Hickory Springs Metal Complex is one of the nation's largest manufacturers and distributors of metal components for the furniture industry. The metal division produces a variety of motion mechanisms including incliners, recliners, rockers and swivel bases. Hickory Springs Metal Complex, which is composed of metal, spring, and sewing plants, employs 625 individuals.